REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 5 has been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested.
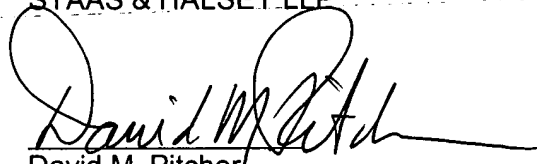
Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
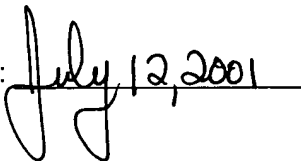
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By: _____
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Registration No. 25,908

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Date: July 12, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 5 as follows:

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A character-recognition pre-processing apparatus according to any one of [claims 1 to 4] <u>claims 1 to 3</u> further comprising:

second judgment means which is operated when an image to be subjected to character recognition contains a plurality of character strings in order to judge the orientation of the image on the basis of information representing the orientations of the character strings judged by the judgment means.